

**California Department of Conservation  
Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program**

**2004 FIELD REPORT**

**COUNTY:** Los Angeles

**FIELD MAPPER(S):** Michael Kisko

**IMAGERY:**

*source:* Air Photo USA  
*date:* February 2004  
*scale:* 2 foot resolution  
*film type:* true color  
*coverage gaps:* none  
*additional imagery:* none

**WRITTEN, DIGITAL & ORAL INFORMATION SOURCES:** *Please list which local governments, interest groups, or individuals submitted comments on the 2002 maps. Also list all phone and in-person contacts made or related GIS data referenced while conducting the 2004 update.*

➤ *local review comments*

*cities:* Lancaster  
*county:* none  
*others:* none

➤ *personal contacts:*

John S, Los Angeles County Ag. Commissioners Office (661) 723-4485

➤ *websites:*

Antelope Valley Fairgrounds: <http://www.avfair.com>  
Lancaster Natl. Soccer Center: <http://www.lancastersoccercenter.com>  
Palmdale WRP: <http://www.lacsd.org/PalmdaleDisinfection/Chapter%201.pdf>  
New Homes in Valencia area: <http://www.valencia.com/index.asp>  
Pierce College: <http://www.piercecollege.edu>

➤ *GIS data referenced:*

SWIS landfill/waste facility reference file: SWIS.dgn

**2002-2004 CHANGES\*:** *Please summarize the most common changes to the maps. List representative locations (quads) of each type of change encountered. Make sure to list and describe particularly large, unusual or notable changes and give estimates of the acreage involved.*

### ➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Urban Land**

There were four conversions of irrigated farmland to urban land this update. The first instance of this type of conversion was seen in the “Bella Vista at Warner Center” apartments in the Woodland Hills area (~20 acres). The next such conversion occurred along San Francisquito Canyon where the “Belcaro” adult community showed evidence of new homes (~15 acres). A small, paved parking lot was also added in the Santa Clarita Valley (~5 acres). Finally, a comment on our maps from the City of Lancaster helped to correctly identify a plot we had previously mapped as farmland as actually being part of the Lancaster National Soccer Center (~25 acres).

### ➤ **Local, Grazing or Other Land to Urban Land**

There were 67 conversions of local, grazing, or other land to urban land this update. The bulk of these conversions took place in a couple of main areas:

*Lancaster/Palmdale area:* The first notable conversions occurred in the Lancaster area where the new Antelope Valley Fairgrounds (~100 acres) were added alongside Highway 14 with some new homes (~60 acres) just across the highway to the south. New homes were also added in West Lancaster where the “Providence Ranch” development was in its initial phase of development (~40 acres). A new Costco was also seen in Lancaster alongside Highway 14 (~20 acres).

New homes were also in evidence in the Palmdale area. In the West Palmdale/Ritter Ridge area, two additions of new homes accounted for the conversion of approximately 120 acres of land. A new Sam’s Club and Kohl’s in Palmdale alongside Highway 14 accounted for the conversion of another twenty acres of land.

Finally, approximately 100 acres of new homes were added to the southwest of Palmdale, in the Acton Canyon area.

*Santa Clarita Valley area:* Two additions of new homes were added in the Hasley Canyon area (~150 acres). Three additions of new homes were made in the Dry Canyon/Haskell Canyon areas (~140 acres). The large, new “Tesoro Del Valle” home development (~250 acres) and the new Rio Norte Junior High School (~20 acres) were added along San Francisquito Canyon. “The Hills” at Valencia apartments and Valencia “Alta Vista” homes (~85 acres for both) were other notable developments, along with the “Westridge” development of new homes in Valencia (~500 acres). Meanwhile, to the east, multiple additions of new homes were seen in the Plum, Tick, and Mint Canyon areas (~200 acres).

*Further instances of urbanization:* Although urbanization was most evident in the Lancaster/Palmdale and Santa Clarita Valley areas, there were a few instances of urbanization in other areas that are worth mentioning. For instance, new homes (~30 acres) were noted in the Aliso Canyon area just to the north of Granada Hills. Also, new homes were added in the Westlake Village (~40 acres) and Calabasas (~50 acres) areas. Finally, new buildings with associated paved parking (~20 acres) were seen nearby Marie Canyon in the Malibu area.

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Local or Grazing Land**

There were 8 conversions of irrigated farmland to local or grazing land this update. These conversions were due to irrigated farmland having been fallow for three update cycles. These conversions took place mainly in the Antelope and Santa Clarita Valley areas. Only two of these conversions were greater than fifty acres, one on the Alpine Butte quad in the Antelope Valley (~100 acres) and one on the Newhall quad in the Santa Clarita Valley (~60 acres).

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Other Land**

There were 13 conversions of irrigated farmland to other land this update. These conversions were primarily due to irrigated farmland having been fallow for three or more update cycles. Two of the largest conversions took place nearby Air Force Plant 42 in the Palmdale area. One of these conversions took place adjacent to the plant to the east (~250 acres) while another large conversion took place to the northeast of the plant (~250 acres). Another fairly large conversion (~125 acres) occurred to the east of the town of Roosevelt on the Alpine Butte quad.

Finally, the identification of farmsteads was a further cause of this type of conversion.

➤ **Local, Grazing or Other Land to Irrigated Farmland**

There were 27 conversions of local, grazing or other land to irrigated farmland this update. All but one of these conversions took place in the Antelope Valley area and consisted of new row crops (onions, carrots, and potatoes), alfalfa, and orchards. The largest conversion this update was seen on the Neenach School quad in the western portion of the Antelope Valley along the Los Angeles County border where a large field of carrots rotated with onions was added (~575 acres). Two more additions of irrigated agriculture, possibly onions and alfalfa, were made on the Alpine Butte quad (~300 acres). Another addition of onions was made on the Lovejoy Buttes quad (~115 acres).

Meanwhile, on the Palmdale quad, two center-pivot fields of alfalfa were added just to the northeast of the Palmdale Water Reclamation Plant (WRP) (~280 acres). Also, just to the north of the Palmdale WRP, an area of irrigated oats was added (~160 acres).

In contrast, the only addition of irrigated agriculture this update that didn't take place in the Antelope Valley was seen in the Castaic area alongside I-5 where a new sod farm was added (~90 acres).

Finally, some small additions to existing orchards were seen in the western Antelope Valley area such as peach trees added on the Neenach School quad.

➤ **UNUSUAL:** *Category changes, complications with the Farmland of Local Importance definition, or any other special circumstances in 2004.*

G to X: Improved delineation of oil field areas such as the Potrero Canyon oil field and an oil field on the Newhall quad resulted in the conversion of approximately 1700 acres of land.

D to P,X: Conversion from Urban and Built-Up Land was primarily the result of the use of improved, digital imagery to delineate more distinct urban boundaries.

**PROBLEM AREAS:** *What locations and map categories need careful checking in 2006? Why?*

Antelope Valley is the hotbed of agricultural activity for Los Angeles County, watch for additions of carrots, onions, potatoes, and alfalfa.

**LABOR ESTIMATE:** *Please estimate the amount of time spent on the following tasks.*

*photo interpretation, start date:* September 3, 2004

*photo interpretation, number of days:* 5

*ground truthing dates:* September 14-17, 2004

*# days for map compilation and clean up:* 4

\* **Note:** **Irrigated Farmland** = Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance or Unique Farmland; **Local** = Farmland of Local Importance

*Further information on the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program can be found at:*

[www.consrv.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp](http://www.consrv.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp)